DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY J.M.Ray DATE 5/6/82
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June 3, 1960

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Dear Mr. Mahon:

I have for reply your letter of April 25 to the Director of the International Cooperation Administration, with which you forwarded a letter from a constituent in Texas who has made certain observations regarding our aid program to Libya. Mr. James Riddleberger has already written to you regarding those matters of most direct concern to his organization and has referred the letter to us for any comment we may wish to add. The following supplemental observations may be of interest to you.

I believe that in his second paragraph your correspondent is referring to a Professor Bayu, who was formerly Dean of the College of Arts of the Libyan University. He is an employee of the Libyan Government and has no official connection with us. However, he is well and favorably known to us and to the best of our knowledge is neither a Communist nor anti-American.

The Communist Party is illegal in Libya and the Libyan Government does not knowingly employ Communists. Far from being "hindered, or completely stopped," our aid programs in Libya have progressed very satisfactorily. There has been no evidence that such obstacles as our programs have encountered are the result of "Communists in the Libyan Government" as your correspondent states.

Criticism of the United States does not necessarily indicate Communist or pro-Soviet inclinations. As you may know, it is a well-known fact that the United States has encountered a great deal of criticism in the Arab states for a number of years because of the Palestine and Algerian problems. Until those problems are settled, we will continue to be criticized by many Arabs who are

neither

The Honorable
George Mahon,
House of Representatives.

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neither Communists nor pro-Soviet. Our aid programs are not expected to solve these problems, or, indeed, to win us popularity for its own sake, but are a long-term investment in raising the standards of living and strengthening the independence of the peoples concerned. We believe that our efforts in this regard are sincerely appreciated by a large and important sector of the peoples of the area, including Libya, and that our investment of time and money is paying off in terms of greater stability and self-reliance.

With regard to the question of the books raised in the last paragraph of your correspondent's letter, we do not believe the situation is quite as bad as painted. It is true that the quality of publications exported commercially from the United States is not always what we would like and that the price of good American books is prohibitive in many parts of the world. We have no control over either their quality or price. However, through our United States Information Service reading rooms in Libya, as well as other countries, we do provide free access to a large range of good American publications. These reading rooms are very popular with the Libyan public and we have no reason to feel inferior to anyone else in this regard.

I hope this information will help you in answering your constituent's letter. If I can be of any further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary

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INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ADMINISTRATION

Washington 25, D. C.

ACTION
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MAY 20 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Honorable William B. Macomber, Jr.
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations
Department of State

SUBJECT : Letter from The Honorable George Mahon, House of Representatives, to Mr. Riddleberger, April 25, 1960.

Please find attached letter from Congressman George Mahon, of Texas, enclosing a communication which he has received with reference to our program in Libya, together with a copy of Director Riddleberger's reply thereto.

You will note that the Director has suggested that the letter would be referred to the State Department for further comment, which should be sent directly to Congressman Mahon.

Guilford Jameson
Deputy Director for Congressional Relations

Enclosure

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GEORGE MAHON
19TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

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MEMBER OF
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

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April 25, 1960

Honorable James W. Riddleberger
Director, International Cooperation
Administration
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. Riddleberger:

Please note the enclosed copy of a letter which I have received from a friend in Texas. I would appreciate your having someone give me the facts and the explanation in regard to this matter.

Thanks very much.

Sincerely,

George Mahon

George Mahon

Enclosure

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April 8, 1960

Dear Sir:

I returned last year from spending a year-and-a-half in Libya, North Africa. While I was there I had occasion to become acquainted with many of the abuses of our foreign aid program. I am for foreign aid, but against the abuse of it. I am writing this to bring to your attention one such abuse, and one which needs immediate correction.

The Libyan Government accepts foreign aid from America only on the terms that such money be given in a lump sum to the Government, explaining: "We know our people and our needs better than you do. Give us the money and we will distribute it as we see fit." This money is used to finance their Agricultural, Engineering, Educational and other programs. These things you know all too well, but did you know that the tax money we send to them is used to pay the salary of Communist teachers, that are imported from Egypt to teach in their elementary, secondary, and the Libyan College of Arts and Education. The President of the College, I can't recall his name, is one hundred percent Red, Anti-American. He was educated in this country (at Columbia) and comes and goes freely, without question. I lived next door to this man, and have had many talks with him. Also, one of the students there is a Christian and told me of the situation.

I have observed many of the student demonstrations, and saw the results of the "agitator cells" at work. They despise us, and we are paying their salaries while they work to throw us out of that country. They surely will!

Must we suffer this abuse! Must we contribute to our destruction? We are losing the war with Russia and they know it. They have not lost a single inch of territory they have overcome since 1917, when they had only forth-thousand members. Today they control one billion. Can we not make at lease some attempt at fighting back! At least let's not help them!

In 1959 we sent them three ship-loads of wheat. A gift from the American people to the Libyan farmer. They wouldn't accept it until we paid the port charges. They wouldn't unload it til the money was paid.

I hope you will consider this situation worthy of looking into. Nearly all of the USOM programs have been hindered, or completely stopped because the communist in the Libyan Government do not want our programs to succeed. That would put America in a favorable light, and of course, they don't want that. These American agencys as well as the American Embassy employ students from the College. What are their affiliations? ~~EXAMINATION~~ Communistic! Do they like the Americans? They spit on us!

You should see the book stores. Beautiful books, from all over the world. ... How much do these cost? Very little..They didn't cost much to produce (slave labor.) Oh! The ones from America cost more. From fifteen to fifty cents. That is more than a day's wage for many in that country. But they don't ~~had~~ buy them for that reason. That are just not interested in "Batman", Donald Duck, "Mickey Spillane," and Erskine Caldwell." They walk down to ~~a~~ the Egyption cultural center and get anything they want free and there is someone there to help them make a selection. WE know what they recommend. ...

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Sincerely,

xxxxx

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MAY 10 1960

The Honorable George Mahon
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Mr. Mahon:

I am pleased to reply to your letter of April 25 regarding phases of the Mutual Security Program in Libya. Some of the statements made by your constituent in his letter of April 8 are the direct concern of the International Cooperation Administration; an explanation of these is indicated below. Other points raised have broader foreign policy implications and therefore your letter is being referred to the Department of State for further reply on these points.

As you may know, a portion of U.S. economic assistance to Libya from FY 1958 and 1959 funds was made available as a cash grant for budget support. The largest share of the funds obligated during these two years (over $13.5 million of the roughly $17.5 million each year) and all mutual security obligations for prior years were programmed for U.S. technicians, participants and project operating expenses which called for the specific approval of U.S. officials in every case. Some of these funds were made available through joint Libyan-American agencies called the Libyan American Joint Services and the Libyan American Reconstruction Commission (LARC) but approval by the Director of the U.S. Operations Mission was still a prerequisite to expenditure for any project in these categories.

One of these Joint Service projects, Provision of Teachers for Libyan Schools, is probably the activity which your constituent refers to in the middle of his second paragraph. A portion of his statement is incorrect. Under this project ICA cooperates with the Libyan Ministry of Education in meeting the cost of expatriate teachers and other educational personnel who staff preparatory, secondary and other school programs. These teachers are hired from Lebanon, Jordan and other Arab-speaking

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countries with the exception of Egypt. The Libyan Government does utilize substantial numbers of Egyptian teachers in their school system but these are supplied and largely paid for by Egypt; not one is supported from U.S. funds.

The 5500 grain referred to in the fifth paragraph of the letter was provided under Title II, P.L. 480. Our records indicate that the Government of Libya supplied the usual local costs including port charges, sacking, unloading and distribution. We are not aware of any instance where this was not the case but will look into the matter further if more specific information on the port and date of the unloadings is provided.

We trust the above explanation covers the points in your letter which are appropriate for a reply by this Agency. As indicated above the correspondence is being referred to the Department of State for further reply.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,

/s/ James L. Middleberger

James L. Middleberger

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Clearances:
DAFitzGerald, DD/C
RJGordon, C/FFE
CHBreecher, MAFT
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